

ESUPS EMERGENCY SUPPLY PRE-POSITIONING STRATEGY

to reduce gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness



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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared on behalf of the Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategy (ESUPS) Steering Group (SG) and it provides a description about the elements that ESUPS uses in order to help stakeholders to analyse and share information on stock. Furthermore, the report explains how ESUPS aims to improve the pre-positioning of relief items at regional levels while looking forward to achieving a global pre-positioning strategy as a preparedness measure in order to support more effectively the delivery of relief items so beneficiaries are better served during sudden onset disasters.

Public communication

“This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of WELTHUNGERHILFE and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.” Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategy (ESUPS), Geneva 2018.

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1. Who We Are

The Emergency Supply Pre-Positioning Strategies (ESUPS) Working Group was created by a group of stakeholders interested in improving pre-positioning of relief items as a preparedness measure.

ESUPS is funded by USAID and governed by a Steering Group which is co-chaired by Welthungerhilfe and UNHRD. The Steering Group further includes Action Against Hunger, The British Red Cross, The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Save the Children, USAID/OFDA, the Logistics Cluster WFP Pacific and the collaboration of Pennsylvania State University. OCHA Geneva acts as ESUPS Secretariat.

ESUPS is open to all Member States, UN Agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, Clusters, International and Regional Organizations who are dealing with emergency logistics, preparedness and prepositioning activities.

The enlargement of organizations participating in ESUPS at regional levels, will contribute to develop an emergency supply pre-positioning strategy worldwide.

2. What is the Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategy (ESUPS) Working On?

- *Improving preparedness at regional levels by minimizing duplication/lack, distance and transportation of relief items to be deployed,*
- *Facilitating communication among stakeholders on a pre-set of relief items (Blankets, Hygiene kit, Kitchen sets, Latrines, Mosquito nets, Plastic sheets, Shelter repair kits, Tents, Water collecting and storage vessels, Water Purification units and Solar light and Battery generator),*
- ESUPS helps to analyze if the right quantities of the most critical relief items are pre-positioned in the right places by using Models and Metrics in order to better make procurement decisions,
- Establishing mechanisms and advocating for sharing, loaning and borrowing of stocks between humanitarian actors,
- ESUPS is currently focused in Asia.

3. Issue Statement

The humanitarian community, pre-position emergency supplies as a preparedness measure to deploy life-saving emergency supplies in response to emergencies after major natural disasters. Although, the lack of communication between actors might lead to an inadequate preparedness and coordination to properly respond to emergencies.

The Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategies (ESUPS) Working Group looks to ensure that organizations responding to emergencies communicate among them and share very specific information to ensure that the right life-saving emergency supplies are in the right quantities pre-positioned in the right places. Good coordination among stakeholders leads to better use of available stockpile, resources and donor funds to appropriately serve beneficiaries during sudden-onset disasters.

4. Challenges

- Humanitarian actors respond to emergencies based on individual past respond experiences,
- However, beneficiaries are still not completely served during emergencies,
- Stakeholders are missing information on available pre-positioned stock so, procurement decisions are not influenced by that or coordinate among the humanitarian community,
- Moreover, the lack of a tried, tested and accepted information and stock – sharing strategy between stakeholders, risk collective over/under-stocking and threatens coordination, cooperation, efficiency and effectiveness for the right relief items to be allocated in the right quantities, right timing and the right places,
- Furthermore, there is a relative lack of researched evidence on the Return on Investment (RoI) and Value for Money (VfM) rising donor awareness in support of funding decisions,
- The lack of uniformity in nomenclature has been identified as an issue since usually organizations use their own naming conventions to refer to a specific relief item. It is recommended that the ESUPS Working Group presents a proposal to uniform the nomenclature of the most critical relief items that ESUPS identified as part of the elements of the pre-positioning strategy. Standardizing nomenclature, would help an organization to negotiate on a very specific relief item with another external partner since they both would be referring to the same relief item avoiding misunderstandings.

- An easier way for organizations to share information on the following data should consider:
 - Types of natural disaster served,
 - Warehouse location,
 - Quantities of relief items deployed,
 - Unit / kits measures,
 - Means of transportation,
 - Transportation cost,
 - City of Departure,
 - Final destination.
- Some organizations do not share their information on stockpile easily due to different reasons for instance political conditions or environmental uncertainty,
- Standards can inhibit innovation of new products since producers try to fit old standards so the humanitarian community could move towards standard specification linked to quality assurance,
- Branding and lack of standardization hinder sharing of RIs also, but considerations should be made before moving forward since branding helps small INGOs with respect to accountability and helps track and reduce reselling goods on black market, also, it can help foster good competition in terms of who can provide best goods and quality to beneficiaries,

5. Accomplishments

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Penn State University developed [models and matrix for Vanuatu](#). The goal was to illustrate how ESUPS can help the humanitarian community to better allocate, buy, share, loan and borrow stock between humanitarian actors by identifying who, has what, where, and in which quantities. Hence, organizations responding to emergencies could only invest in emergency supplies that are really needed in case of natural disasters with the aim of avoiding duplications.
- Further analysis has been made in January 2018 by using the [Philippines Typhoon Haiyan 2013](#) emergency response as scenario to assess the quality of inventory position in stockpile depots and the response capacity.

The analysis intended to answer the following questions: Is the stock in the right place? Is there enough? This time, the question “Is it time and cost efficient?” modified the models and metrics to get results of the response capacity.

The Real -Time Tool (proof of concept) was used based on subset of data and uses our assumptions cost, local capacities etc. See below figures No. 1, No.

2, and No. 3¹ which explain the items that were shipped into the Philippines, where these items came from and cost per metric ton.

Which items were shipped into the Philippines

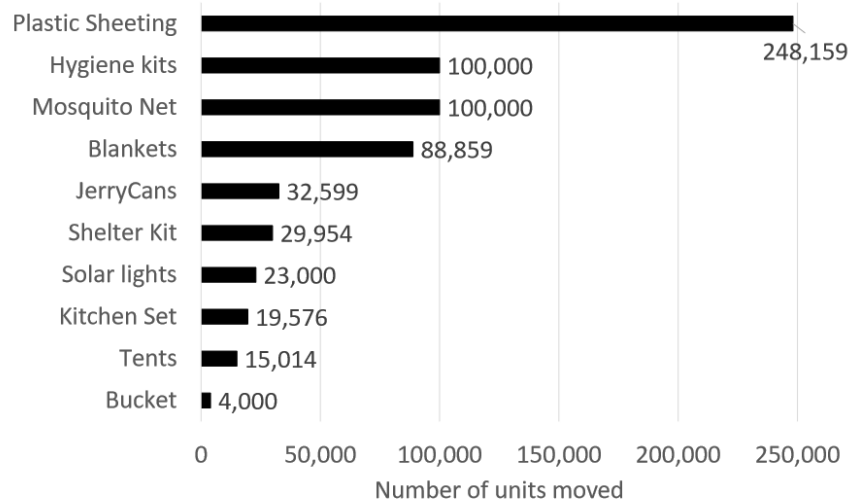
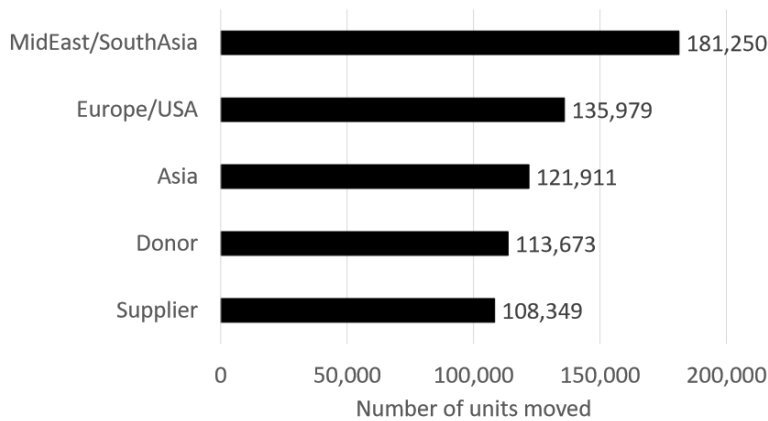


Figure No. 1

Where these items came from



(Important assumption: if the organization listed 2 sources of the shipped item, I divided the shipment equally between all mentioned origin locations.)

Figure No. 2

¹ Data gathered by ESUPS and provided by Organizations which responded to the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan 2013 emergency response. Analysis in Model Metrics made by Jason Acimovic Assistant Professor of Supply Chain Management Pennsylvania State University, January 2018.

Cost per metric ton

- Data is based on one organization with detailed data for cost for metric tons (only 12 observations with limited origins)
- Average cost per metric ton (across multiple distances):
 - Average: \$2713USD.
 - Standard deviation: \$437USD
- Cube does not appear to matter
- Equation for cost of a shipment in USD is:
 - $USD\ cost = 56,000 + 0.21 * MetricTonnes * DistanceMiles + 982 * MetricTonnes$

Figure No. 3

6. Next Steps

- Share with stakeholders responding to emergencies in Asia the added value of joining ESUPS,
- Models and metrics will be done in more locations and will consider having a balance between closeness and too far away of impacted areas by disasters to respond effectively and to better understand cost of storage and transportation of relief items in Asia,
- During the Humanitarian networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2018, the ESUPS Steering Group Members decided to use the [Pacific Stockpile Mapping \(PALM\)](#) as a basis to collect data on current stock. The tool is developed by the Logistics Cluster – WFP Pacific Office who is also member of the ESUPS SG,
- Take replenishment times into account when thinking about sharing and stock levels and allow people to request items from suppliers as “urgent”, “non-urgent” or “just replenishing” because of supplier capacity,
- More workshops will be facilitated by ESUPS in order to discuss about how to pre-position the right life-saving emergency supplies, in the right quantities and the right places. Hence, available resources and donor funds might be better use to appropriately serve beneficiaries,
- ESUPS will keep providing forum and facilitating communication among stakeholders on a pre-set of relief items. Information related to new workshops, research results and events will be share in the www.esups.org website.